

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2022

Senator Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Gary Peters
Chairman, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 724
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Chairman Peters:

We write to express our support for President Joe Biden's nominees, Mr. Daniel Tangherlini and Mr. Derek Kan, to serve on the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service (USPS) and to call for their immediate consideration before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the full U.S. Senate.

The USPS is a vital American institution, delivering Social Security payments and veterans' benefits, allowing small businesses to continue operations, ensuring seniors receive critical medications, and connecting loved ones through letters. Our postal workers have braved the difficulties posed by the pandemic and have continued their devotion to serving the American people. They are frontline workers who deserve a safe, healthy, and positive work environment. Despite this, the USPS remains chronically understaffed and without the resources their employees need to keep up with demand. We must ensure that the Board of Governors is fully equipped to lead their workforce.

With the plethora of policy changes from the USPS at the national level from the "Delivering for America" 10-year plan, the Board of Governors must have all nine members active to consider and oversee the plan's implementation. As you know, the "Delivering for America" plan includes service standard reductions as well as increases in prices. We have been increasingly concerned that these new policies disregard the U.S. Postal Service's role as a public service rather than a profit-making entity. The October 1st, 2021 service standard changes have led to lengthened delivery times and reduced reliability in the USPS. On January 9th of this year, Shipping Services product prices increased by approximately 3.1 percent for Priority Mail service, and 3.1 percent for Priority Mail Express service.¹ Without a full Board, the USPS will be unable to properly evaluate these policy changes' impacts on the organization's financial footing and customers.

A 2021 report from the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) confirmed what we have been hearing from our Illinois constituents all along: since Postmaster General DeJoy's tenure began in June 2020, the Postal Service has experienced drastic reductions in its performance, particularly in the Chicago area.² In October,

¹ "U.S. Postal Service Announces New Competitive Prices and Two New Mail Products for 2022," November 10, 2021.

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2021/1110-usps-announces-new-competitive-prices-and-two-new-mail-products-for-2022.htm>

² "Audit Report: Mail Delivery and Customer Service Issues— Select Chicago Stations, Chicago, IL," February 1, 2021.

<https://www.uspoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2021/20-296-R21.pdf>

we heard from witnesses at the Oversight and Reform Committee's field hearing in Chicago about how Postmaster General DeJoy's operational changes have impacted USPS customers.³ At that hearing, we learned that in the City of Chicago over a six month period, there were more than 60,000 letters and 2,000 packages that had been delayed, some for more than a month. Witnesses also spoke to how a lack of resources and understaffing at distribution centers have contributed to widespread delivery delays in the Chicago area, even prior to the pandemic.

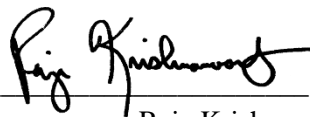
Further, Chicago has had to contend with local disorganization and disruptions, such as turnover in the role of Chicago Postmaster with the most recent Postmaster, Eddie Morgan Jr., leaving after only seven months. We must ensure the national leadership of the Postal Service is fully staffed to address the issues we are seeing on the ground. As omicron sweeps through the nation, our constituents are reporting more drastic delays. Some Congressional offices have received calls from constituents who have not yet received mail in 2022. This level of service is unacceptable. A fully staffed Postal Board of Governors is critical for working to build the USPS back up to their standards of efficiency and service to the American people.

It is vital that the Postal Board of Governors operate at full capacity to meet the needs of this moment and properly evaluate the performance of the USPS. The President's nominees will help guide the Postal Service. We urge the Senate to take up President Biden's two nominations to the USPS Board of Governors swiftly to improve accountability at the Postal Service.

Sincerely,



Congressman Sean Casten



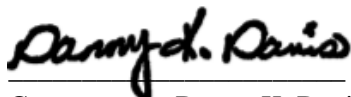
Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi



Congressman Bobby L. Rush



Congressman Bradley S. Schneider



Congressman Danny K. Davis



Congressman Bill Foster



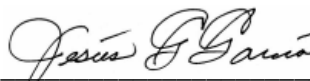
Congressman Mike Quigley



Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly



Congresswoman Lauren Underwood

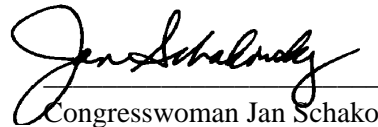


Congressman Jesús G. "Chuy" García

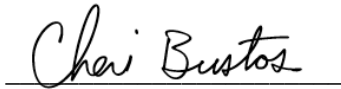
³ "Waiting on the Mail: Postal Service Standard Drops in Chicago and the Surrounding Area," October 15, 2021.
<https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/waiting-on-the-mail-postal-service-standard-drops-in-chicago-and-the>

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Congresswoman Marie Newman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Schakowsky", written over a horizontal line.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheri Bustos", written over a horizontal line.

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos